

CHAPTER 13

MANAGEMENT OF ANCILLARY SERVICES -- TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Services

The board of directors in every school district shall provide transportation, either directly or by reimbursement for transportation, for all resident pupils attending public school, kindergarten through twelfth grade, except that:

- a. Elementary pupils shall be entitled to transportation only if they live more than two miles from the school designated for attendance.
- b. High school pupils shall be entitled to transportation only if they live more than three miles from the school designated for attendance.
- c. Children attending prekindergarten programs offered or sponsored by the district may be provided transportation services
- d. Districts are not required to maintain seating space on school buses for students who are otherwise to be provided transportation under 285.1 if the students do not or will not regularly utilize the district's transportation service for extended periods during the school year (285.1(1)).

Districts may but are not required to provide transportation for summer school students (OAG #79-7-20).

The board shall included in its rules provisions regulating the loading and unloading of pupils from a school bus stopped on the highway during a period of reduced highway visibility caused by fog, snow, or other weather conditions (279.8).

Boards have the right to promulgate rules to regulate the conduct of students who ride on school buses and to impose sanctions for violating such rules (OAG #83-8-7).

Distance to school or to a bus route shall in all cases be measured on the public highway only and over the most passable and safest route as determined by the AEA board, starting in the roadway opposite the private entrance to the resident of the pupil and ending in the roadway opposite the entrance to the school grounds or designated point on bus route (285.1(9)).

If special education services are provided by the AEA, the board of directors of the AEA with the cooperation of the local school districts within its jurisdiction may provide transportation for children requiring special education services that are in need of transportation in connection with any programs, classes, or services (256B.4(5)).

The failure of any local district to comply with the provisions of chapter 285 or any other laws relating to the transportation of pupils, or any rules made by the Department of Education under chapter 285 or the final decisions of the AEA board, or the final decisions of the Department of Education shall during the period such failure to comply existed forfeit the rights to collect transportation costs from school or parents while operating in such illegal manner. Any superintendent, board, or board member who knowingly operates or permits to be operated any school bus transporting public school pupils in violation of any school transportation law shall be deemed guilty of a simple misdemeanor (285.15).

In the case of *Bruggeman v. Independent District No. 4 Union Township School*, the Supreme court has held that the school district is a quasi-corporation of the state and the statute has imposed the duty of transportation upon the board.

Bus Drivers

When school buses are used to transport pupils, the bus shall be driven by a regularly approved driver holding a chauffeur's license and a school bus driver's permit. In addition, the buses must be accompanied by a member of the faculty or other employee of the school or a parent or other adult volunteer as authorized by a school administrator who will be responsible for the conduct and the general supervision of the pupils on the bus and at the place of the activity. If the faculty member is an approved driver, that person can act both as a driver and faculty sponsor (IAC 281--43.10(4)).

The driver of a school bus shall hold a driver's license issued by the department of transportation valid for the operation of the school bus and shall hold a school bus driver's permit issued by the department of education when transporting student or adult passengers to or from school activities (321.376(1)). A person applying for employment or employed as a school bus driver shall successfully complete a department of education approved course of instruction for school

bus drivers before or within the first six months of employment and at least every twenty-four months thereafter (321.376(2)). All bus drivers for school-owned equipment shall be under contract with the board (285.5(9)). All contracts for transportation service and for drivers of school-owned and operated buses shall be made with someone outside the board except where no other transportation service is available, a board member may transport the member's own children (285.5(7)).

A driver of a school bus must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. Be at least eighteen years of age.
- b. Be physically and mentally competent.
- c. Not possess personal or moral habits which would be detrimental to the best interests of the safety and welfare of the children transported.
- d. Have an annual physical examination and meet all established requirements for physical fitness (321.375(1)).

Bus drivers for school buses must present a certificate of physical fitness each year before being permitted to operate any vehicles transporting children to and from school (285.11(9)).

Any of the following shall constitute grounds for a school bus driver's immediate suspension from duties, pending a termination hearing by the board of directors of a public school district or the authorities in charge in a nonpublic school:

- a. Use of nonprescription controlled substances or alcoholic beverages during working hours.
- b. Operating a school bus while under the influence of nonprescription controlled substances or alcoholic beverages.
- c. Fraud in the procurement or renewal of a school bus driver's permit.
- d. The commission of or conviction for a public offences as defined by the Iowa criminal code, if the offense is relevant to and affects driving ability, or if the offence includes sexual involvement with a minor student with the intent to commit acts and practices proscribed by law, or is a violation of the rules of the department of education (321.375(2)).

Reimbursement to Parents

Any pupil may be required to meet a school bus on the approved route a distance of not to exceed three-fourths of a mile without reimbursement (285.1(2)).

Where transportation by school bus is impracticable, where necessary to implement a whole grade sharing agreement under section 282.10, or where school bus service is not available, the board may require parents or guardians to furnish transportation for their children to the schools designated for attendance. Except as provided in section 285.3, the parent or guardian shall be reimbursed for such transportation service for public and nonpublic school pupils by the board of the resident district in an amount equal to eighty dollars plus seventy-five percent of the difference between eighty dollars and the previous school year's statewide average per pupil transportation cost. A parent or guardian shall not receive reimbursement for furnishing transportation for more than three family members who attend elementary school and one family member who attends high school (285.1(3)).

Where unsatisfactory roads or other conditions make it advisable, the board at its discretion may require the parents or guardians of public and nonpublic school pupils to furnish transportation for their children up to two miles to connect with vehicles of transportation. The parent or guardian shall be reimbursed for such transportation by the boards of the resident districts at the rate of twenty-eight cents per mile per day, one way, per family for the distance from the pupil's residence to the bus route (285.1(4)).

Reimbursement to Parents for Pupils at ISD or IBSSS

Funds appropriated to the school for the deaf and the Iowa braille and sight saving school for payments to the parents or guardians of pupils in either institution shall be expended as follows:

1. Transportation reimbursement at a rate established annually by the state board of regents to the parents or guardians of children who do not reside in the institution, but are transported to the institution on a daily basis.
2. Transportation reimbursement at a rate established annually by the state board of regents to the parents or guardians for transportation from the institution to the residence of the parent or guardian and return to the institution for children who reside in the institution (270.9).

Transportation Services to Nonresident Pupils

The board in any district providing transportation for nonresident pupils shall collect the pro rata cost of transportation from the district of pupil's resident for all properly designated pupils so transported (285.1(10)).

Boards in districts operating buses may transport nonresident pupils who attend public school, kindergarten through junior college, who are not entitled to free transportation provided they collect the pro rata cost of transportation from the parents (285.1(11)).

Full pro rata costs must be charged and collected for the transportation of all nonresident pupils. No differentiation may be made in charges due to differences in distance or grade in school (IAC 281--43.8).

Transportation Services to Accredited Nonpublic School Pupils

Nonpublic school for purposes of transportation services means those nonpublic schools accredited by the department of education as provided in section 256.11 and nonpublic institutions which comply with state board of education standards for providing special education programs (285.16).

Resident pupils attending a nonpublic school located either within or without the school district of the pupil's residence shall be entitled to transportation on the same basis as provided for resident public school pupils. The school of attendance is designated by the parents of the nonpublic school pupil (285.1(14)).

Boards of directors of school districts shall be required to provide transportation services to nonpublic school pupils when the general assembly appropriates funds for the payment of claims for transportation costs submitted by the school district (285.2).

The portion of the amount appropriated to pay claims to reimburse parents or guardians of nonpublic school pupils for furnishing transportation for their children is equal to eighty dollars plus seventy-five percent of the difference between eighty dollars and the previous school year's statewide average per pupil transportation cost multiplied by the total number of nonpublic school pupils for which the parent or guardian furnishes transportation, except that all elementary pupils and two members of a family who attend a nonpublic high school shall be included in the total number. The amount of an approved claim to a parent or guardian for furnishing transportation shall include a base payment, and may include a supplemental payment (285.3).

Pupils Sent to Another District

When a board closes its elementary school facilities for lack of pupils or by action of the board, it shall, if there is a school bus service available in the area, designate for attendance the school operating the buses, provided the board of such school is willing to receive them and the facilities and curricular offerings are adequate. The board of the district where the pupils reside may with the approval of the AEA board, subject to legal limitations and established uniform standards, designate another rural school and provide their own transportation if the transportation costs will be less than to use the established bus service (285.4).

The board of directors of a school district by record action may discontinue any or all of grades seven through twelve and negotiate an agreement for attendance of the pupils enrolled in those grades in the schools of one or more contiguous school districts having accredited school systems. The agreement shall provide for transportation and authority and liability of the affected boards (282.7(1)).

Failure to Pay Transportation Costs

When a local board fails to pay transportation costs due to another school for transportation service rendered, the board of the creditor corporation shall file a sworn statement with the AEA board specifying the amount due. The agency board shall check such claim and if the claim is valid shall certify to the county auditor. The auditor shall transmit to the county treasurer an order directing the county treasurer to transfer the amount of such claim from the funds of the debtor corporation to the creditor corporation and the treasurer shall pay the same accordingly (285.1(13)).

Iowa Code section 282.21 sets up the method for the collection of tuition fees owed from one local board to another but not paid, and subsection 285.1(13) provides the method of collection of transportation costs (OAG #52-2-7(L)).

Other Transportation Services and Charges

Boards in their discretion may provide transportation for some or all resident pupils attending public school or pupils who attend nonpublic schools who are not entitled to transportation. Boards in their discretion may collect from the parent or guardian of the pupil not more than the pro rata cost for such optional transportation (285.1).

Boards in districts operating buses may in their discretion transport senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities, and other persons and groups, who are not otherwise entitled to free transportation, and shall collect the pro rata cost of transportation (285.1(21)).

The board, in its discretion, may furnish a school bus and services of a qualified driver to an organization of, or sponsoring activities for, senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities, or other persons and groups in this state. The board shall charge and collect an amount sufficient to reimburse all costs of furnishing the bus and driver except when the bus is used for transporting pupils to and from extracurricular activities sponsored by the school (285.10(9)).

The board, in its discretion, may furnish a school bus and services of a qualified driver for transportation of persons other than pupils to activities in which pupils from the school are participants or are attending the activity or for which the school is a sponsor. The board shall charge and collect an amount sufficient to reimburse all costs of furnishing the bus and driver (285.10(10)).

School buses may be used by an organization of, or sponsoring activities for, senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities, and other persons and groups, and for transportation of persons other than pupils to activities in which pupils from the school are participants or are attending the activity or for which the school is a sponsor under the following conditions:

- a. The "school bus" signs shall be covered and the flashing warning lamps and stop arm made inoperable when the bus is being used in a nonschool-sponsored activity.
- b. Transportation outside the state of Iowa shall not be provided without the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission.
- c. For adult groups, no more than two persons shall occupy a 39-inch seat. Standees shall not be permitted.
- d. A chaperone shall accompany each bus to assist the passengers in boarding and disembarking from the bus and to aid them in case of illness or injury.
- e. The driver of the bus shall be approved by the local board of education and must possess a chauffeur's license and a school bus driver's permit.
- f. The driver of the bus shall observe the maximum speed limits for school buses at all times (IAC 281--43.10(5)).

School employees of districts operating buses may be transported to and from school and approved activities which they are required to attend as a result of their responsibilities. Nothing in 285.11 shall prohibit the use of school buses in transporting a school teacher going to and from the teacher's school when such school is on an established school bus route and such teacher makes arrangements with the district operating such school bus (285.11(6)).

Public school teachers who are transported should be included in the average number transported and should be charged the pro rata cost by the transporting district (IAC 281--43.11).

Specifically exempted from the provisions of sales tax are the gross receipts from the sales, furnishing or service of transportation service (422.45(2)).

Postsecondary Enrollment Options Transportation

The parent or guardian of an eligible pupil who has enrolled in and is attending an eligible postsecondary institution under chapter 261C shall furnish transportation to and from the eligible postsecondary institution for the pupil (261C.7).

Open Enrollment Transportation

Notwithstanding section 285.1 relating to transportation of nonresident pupils, the parent or guardian is responsible for transporting the pupil without reimbursement to and from a point on a regular school bus route of the receiving district. However, a receiving district may send school vehicles into the district of residence of the pupil using the open enrollment option under section 282.18, for the purpose of transporting the pupil to and from school in the receiving district, if the boards of both the sending and receiving district agree to this arrangement. If the pupil meets the economic eligibility requirements established by the department and state board of education, the sending district is responsible for providing transportation or paying the pro rata cost of the transportation to a parent or guardian for transporting the pupil to and from a point on a regular school bus route to a contiguous receiving district unless the cost

of providing transportation or the pro rata cost of the transportation to a parent or guardian exceeds the average transportation cost per pupil transported for the previous school year in the district. If the cost exceeds the average transportation cost per pupil transported for the previous school year, the sending district shall only be responsible for that average per pupil amount. A sending district which provides transportation for a pupil to a contiguous receiving district under subsection 282.18(10) may withhold from the district cost per pupil amount, that is to be paid to the receiving district, an amount which represents the average or pro rata cost per pupil for transportation, whichever is less (282.18(10)).

The parent or guardian of a pupil who has been accepted for open enrollment shall be responsible to transport the pupil without reimbursement, except as provided in subrule 17.9(2), to and from a point on a regular school bus route of the receiving district. This point shall be a designated stop on the bus route of the receiving district. If this point is within the distances established by Iowa Code section 285.1 from the school designated for attendance by the receiving district, that district may, but is not required to, provide transportation for an open enrollment pupil. A receiving district may send buses into a resident district solely for the purpose of transporting an open enrollment pupil if the boards of both the sending and receiving districts agree to this arrangement. Bus routes that are outside the boundary of the receiving district that have been authorized by an AEA board of directors, as provided by Iowa Code subsection 285.9(3), may be used to transport open enrollment pupils if boards of directors of the resident and receiving districts have both taken action to approve such an arrangement. Bus routes that have been established by the receiving district for the purpose of transporting nonpublic school or special education pupils that operate in the resident district of an open enrollment pupil shall not be utilized for the transportation of such pupil for the portion of the route that is within the resident district unless the boards of directors of the resident and receiving districts have both taken action to approve such an arrangement. Bus routes transporting pupils for the purpose of whole-grade sharing shall not be used to transport open enrollment pupils for the portion of the route that is within the resident district unless the boards of directors of the resident and receiving districts have both taken action to approve such an arrangement (IAC 281--17.9(1)).

Open enrollment pupils that meet the economic eligibility requirements established by the department of education shall receive transportation assistance from their resident district under the following conditions. The resident district is not required to provide any transportation assistance for a pupil involved in open enrollment with a district that is not contiguous with the pupil's resident district. The resident district shall provide transportation for the pupil to a point that is a designated stop on a regular bus route of a contiguous receiving district, or as an alternative, the resident district shall pay the parent or guardian for providing this transportation. In either situation the resident district is not obligated to expend more than the average cost per pupil transported amount established for that district for the previous school year. If the resident district provides the transportation, it shall determine that it is able to perform this function at a cost not in excess of the average cost per pupil transported for the resident district as established the previous year. It shall not assess any additional cost to the parent or guardian for providing transportation. If the district chooses to reimburse the parent or guardian for providing transportation, to determine the amount to be reimbursed, the district shall use the provisions of Iowa Code subsection 285.1(3). This reimbursement shall not exceed the average cost per pupil transported for the resident district as established the previous year. The resident district may withhold from the amount it is required to pay to a receiving district for an open enrollment pupil the actual amount or the average cost per pupil transported amount it pays for transportation assistance, whichever is the lesser amount (IAC 281--17.9(2)).

A parent or guardian shall be eligible for transportation assistance from the resident district if the household income of the parent or guardian is at or below 160 percent of the federal income poverty guidelines as stated by household size. Since the federal income poverty guidelines are adjusted each year, the department of education shall provide revised eligibility guidelines to school districts each year (IAC 281--17.9(3)).

The resident district may deduct any transportation assistance funds for which the pupil is eligible as provided by subrule 17.9(2) (IAC 281--17.10(4)).

Inclement Weather and Safety

Transportation service may be suspended upon any day or days due to the inclemency of the weather, conditions of roads, or the existence of other conditions, by the board of the school district operating the buses, when in their judgment it is deemed advisable and when the school or schools are closed to all children (285.1(8)).

Suspension does not mean that if one bus cannot run because of bad roads the school shall be closed. It does mean that if all buses do not run there shall be no school (OAG #57-9-30(L)).

A school board is allowed to suspend student transportation services only if the board determines that weather, road, or other conditions make running the buses unadvisable and the district schools are closed (OAG #93-11-8(L)).

The board shall include in its rules provisions regulating the loading and unloading of pupils from a school bus stopped on the highway during a period of reduced highway visibility caused by fog, snow or other weather conditions (279.8).

Restricted loading and unloading areas shall be established for school buses at, or near, schools (IAC 281--43.42).

At least twice during each year, each pupil who is transported in a school vehicle shall be instructed in safe riding practices and participate in emergency evacuation drills (IAC 281--43.40).

Cities and counties shall have the power to establish school zones and provide for the stopping of all motor vehicles approaching the school zones, when movable stop signs have been placed in the streets in such cities and highways in counties at the limits of the zones, notwithstanding the provisions of any statute to the contrary. All traffic-control devices provided for school zones shall conform to specifications included in the manual of traffic-control devices adopted by the department of transportation, except the provision prohibiting the use of portable or part-time stop signs (321.249).

A city council may close a street during any portion of a school day as a safety measure for the protection of children, and the city is not liable for any damages, providing it erects a sufficient barrier to warn the public that the street is closed (OAG #30-12-5(L)).

Transportation Vehicles

A vehicle which carries liquefied petroleum gas fuel or natural gas, as a fuel source for the vehicle, in a concealed area, including but not limited to trunks or compartments located in or under the vehicle, shall display on the left rear and right front bumpers of the vehicle a standard abbreviation or symbol, approved by the department of public safety, which indicates liquefied petroleum gas fuel or natural gas is a fuel source for the vehicle (101.11(1)).

Tax on motor fuel or undyed special fuel sold directly to and used for the following is subject to refund: a school district which is used for a public purpose, including fuel sold for the transportation of school pupils of approved public and nonpublic schools by a carrier who contracts with the public school under section 285.5 (452A.17(1)(a)(3)).

All publicly owned motor vehicles shall bear at least two labels in a conspicuous place, one on each side of the vehicle. This label shall be designed to cover not less than one square foot of surface (721.8).

A motor vehicle purchased or used under the direction of the board of directors to provide services to a school corporation shall not, on or after January 1, 1993, operate on gasoline other than gasoline blended with at least ten percent ethanol. The motor vehicle shall also be affixed with a brightly visible sticker which notifies the traveling public that the motor vehicle is being operated on gasoline blended with ethanol (279.34).

All diesel fuel sold for or used in vehicles designed for transporting persons or property on a street or highway must contain not more than 0.05 percent by weight of sulfur content. This mandate includes diesel fuels sold and used in school transportation vehicles (40 CFR 80, 86).

Every motor vehicle, trailer, and semitrailer when driven or moved upon a highway shall be subject to the vehicle registration provisions of chapter 321 except any school bus in this state used exclusively for the transportation of pupils to and from school or a school function or for the purposes provided in subsection 285.1(1) and subsection 285.10(9), or used exclusively for the transportation of children enrolled in a federal head start program. Upon application the department of transportation shall, without charge, issue a registration certificate and shall also issue registration plates which shall have imprinted thereon the words "Private School Bus" and a distinguishing number assigned to the applicant. Such plates shall be attached to the front and rear of each bus exempt from registration (321.18(7)).

Every school bus except private passenger vehicles used as school buses shall be constructed and equipped to meet safety standards prescribed in rules adopted by the state board of education. Such rules shall conform to safety standards set forth in federal laws and regulations and shall conform, insofar as practicable, to the minimum standards for school buses recommended by the national conference on school transportation administered by the national commission on safety education and published by the national education association (321.373(1)). Rules shall provide standards for structural strength, materials, and insulation of the school bus body; color; seat and aisle arrangement; dimension and construction of service door; control of the front door or doors; emergency door and its location and construction; windows; roof ventilators; heaters; location, filling, and draining of the fuel tank; bumpers and how they shall be attached to the bus; lettering and identification of the bus; stop signal arm; warning lights and flashing lights

(231.373(2). The rules shall include special rules for passenger automobiles, and other vehicles designed to carry eight or fewer pupils, when used as school buses (321.373(3). These rules are found in IAC 281--44.

Every school bus shall be equipped with a comfortable seat for each child (321.373(4)).

A school bus may be equipped with a white flashing strobe light mounted on the roof of the bus to afford optimum visibility during periods of inclement weather. The light shall be installed and operated in accordance with rules. Each new school bus put into initial service after January 1, 1977, shall be equipped with such a light (321.373(7)).

No vehicle shall be put into service as a school bus until it is given an original inspection to determine if it meets all legal and established uniform standards of construction for the protection of the health and safety of children to be transported. Vehicles which are approved shall be issued a seal of approval by the director of the department of education. All vehicles used as school buses shall be given a safety inspection at least once a year. Buses passing the inspection shall be issued an inspection seal of approval by the director of the department of education. The seal of original inspection and the annual seal of inspection shall be affixed to the lower right hand corner of the windshield (321.374).

To facilitate the semiannual inspection program, school district officials shall send their buses to inspection centers as scheduled. A sufficient number of drivers or other school personnel shall be available at the inspection to operate the equipment for the inspectors (IAC 281--43.30). As a part of the semiannual inspection program school officials shall cause the chassis of all buses, whether publicly or privately owned, to be inspected and all necessary repairs made before the opening of the school term each fall (IAC 281--43.31).

A daily pretrip inspection of each school bus shall be performed and recorded. A written report shall be submitted promptly to the superintendent of schools, transportation supervisor, school bus mechanic, or other person charged with the responsibility for the school transportation program, if any defects or deficiencies are discovered that may affect the safety of the vehicle's operation or result in its mechanical breakdown (IAC 281--43.41).

No school board, individual, or organization shall purchase, construct, or contract for use, to transport pupils to or from school, any school use which does not comply with the minimum requirements of section 321.373 and any individual, or any member or officer of such board or organization who authorizes, the purchase, construction, or contract for any such bus not complying with these minimum requirements shall be guilty of a misdemeanor (321.379).

Contracts and Common Carriers

All private individuals wishing to transport public school pupils to and from public school in privately owned vehicles must be under contract with the board of education. This will not apply to parents who transport their own children only. The contract form used shall be that provided by the department of education (IAC 281--43.3). The contract must provide for a uniform charge for all pupils transported. No differentiations may be made between pupils of different districts except as provided in Iowa Code section 285.1(12) (IAC 281--43.4). The contractor may not arrange with individual families for transportation. The contractor undertakes to transport only those families indicated by the board of education (IAC 281--43.5). Parents undertaking to transport other children in addition to their own are private contractors. These parents must be under contract, and must obtain a chauffeur's license and a school bus driver's permit (IAC 281--43.6). Any vehicle used, other than that used by parents to transport their own children only, is considered to be a school bus and must meet all requirements set up for the type of vehicle used (IAC 281.43.7).

Private buses other than common carriers not used exclusively in transportation of pupils while under contract to a school district shall meet all requirements for school-owned buses, as to construction and operation (285.5(8)).

The board of education shall carry insurance on all school-owned buses and see that insurance is carried by all contractors engaged in transporting pupils for the district in the coverages and limits as determined by the board of education (IAC 281--43.33).

The board of education and a contractor who undertakes to transport public and nonpublic pupils for the board, in privately owned vehicles, shall sign the official contract prescribed by the department of education (IAC 281--43.34).

The board of education and a private individual undertaking to transport public and nonpublic school pupils for the board in school district-owned vehicles shall sign the official contract prescribed by the state department of education (IAC 281--43.35).

Bus standards listed in IAC 281--43.43 are intended to apply to any vehicle operated by a common carrier when used exclusively for student transportation to and from school.

SBRC Transportation Aid

If a district's average transportation costs per pupil exceed the state average transportation costs per pupil determined under paragraph "c" by 150%, the school budget review committee (SBRC) may grant transportation assistance aid to the district. To be eligible for transportation assistance aid, a school district shall annually certify its actual cost for all children transported in all school buses not later than July 31 after each school year on forms prescribed by the committee. A district's average transportation costs per pupil shall be determined by dividing the district's actual cost for all children transported in all school buses for a school year pursuant to subsection 285.1(12), less the amount received for transporting nonpublic school pupils under section 285.1, by the district's actual enrollment for the school year excluding the shared-time enrollment for the school year as defined in section 257.6. The state average transportation costs per pupil shall be determined by dividing the total actual costs for all children transported in all districts for a school year, by the total of all districts' actual enrollments for the school year (257.31(17)).

Funds transferred to the committee in accordance with subsection 321.34(22) are appropriated to any may be expended for the purposes of the committee, as described in this section. However, highest priority shall be given to districts that meet the conditions described in this subsection (257.31(17)(d)).

An owner upon written application to the department of transportation, may order special registration plates with an education emblem. The education emblem shall be designed by the department in cooperation with the department of education (321.34(22)(a)).